

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A silyl linker for use in the solid-phase synthesis of nucleic acid, comprised of a compound of the general formula or its ester or salt:



wherein each of R1 and R2 is an alkyl or aryl group, and

(A) represents a spacer moiety.

2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein the spacer moiety (A) is an alkylene group represented by the formula: -(CH₂)_n- wherein "n" is a natural number.
3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 2 wherein "n" is 2-18.
4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 2 or 3 wherein the alkylene group has at least one ether or thioether bond.
5. (Currently amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 wherein R1 and R2 are an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms.
6. (Currently amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 wherein the aryl group of R1 and R2 has a substituent of alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogeno or methoxy group.
7. (Currently amended) The compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1 wherein a benzene ring structure has a substituent.
8. (Original) The compound according to Claim 7 wherein the substituent of the benzene ring structure is selected from the group consisting of alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, halogeno, nitro, cyano and methoxy groups.

9. (Currently amended) A 3'-end nucleoside unit having the compound according to ~~any one of~~
~~Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1 linked via an oxygen atom to the 3-position of a sugar of the nucleoside or its derivative.
10. (Original) The 3'-end nucleoside unit according to Claim 9 wherein a base constituting the nucleoside is thymine.
11. (Original) The compound according to Claim 10 which is 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)—thymidine-3'-O-diisopropylsiyl-4-benzoylaminobutanoic acid triethylammonium.
12. (Original) A solid-phase support having the 3'-end nucleoside unit according to Claim 9 introduced thereon.
13. (Original) The solid-phase support according to Claim 12 having the 3'-end nucleoside unit at a ratio of 20-30 $\mu\text{mol/g}$.
14. (Original) The solid-phase support according to Claim 12 or 13, which is HCP solid-phase support.